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KNUCKLES

THE ECHIDNA

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

DIRECT EDITION

KNUCKLES
Book Eleven

The Forgotten Tribe

Part Two of Three

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BORN TO THE MOST NOBLE OF ECHIDNA HOUSES, THE LATEST TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY HERITAGE AND RESPONSIBILITY AS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, DEFENDER OF ALL FROM THE FORCES OF EVIL FROM THE WORLD BEYOND AS WELL AS THOSE WHO WOULD THREATEN WITHIN, HE IS NONE OTHER THAN KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!

CENTURIES AGO, THE ECHIDNA CIVILIZATION FACED ANNIHILATION IN THE FORM OF A COLLISION COURSE WITH A COMET. THEY HAD BUT TWO CHOICES: UTILIZE THE TECHNOLOGY THEY WERE DEPENDENT UPON TO SAVE THEMSELVES OR ABANDON THE CITY THEY INHABITED AND RESETTLE ELSEWHERE.

FOR THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY, THE CHOICE WAS SIMPLE, AS THEY EMBRACED THE TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTION THAT CARRIED THEIR ISLAND HOMEWARD INTO THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE.

LOST IN THE PAGES OF HISTORY UNTIL NOW, HOWEVER, WAS A BAND OF BRAVE SOULS WHO FOLLOWED AN ECHIDNA OF CONSCIENCE IN SEARCH OF A NEW HOMELAND ON THE GROUND UPON WHICH THEY HAD GROWN AND PROSPERED.

IT IS WITH THEIR PRESENT-DAY DESCENDANTS THAT WE FIND KNUCKLES, TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HIS NEXT COURSE OF ACTION IN REGARDS TO HIS KINDRED ECHIDNA...

MOMMA, I'M SCARED!

HOLD ON, CHILD!

THEY'RE GOING TO *DIE* UNLESS WE *DO* SOMETHING, ATHAIR!

NOBODY'S GOING TO DIE, KNUCKLES!

YOU'RE WRONG, ATHAIR!

EVERYTHING DIES!

NOT TODAY!

THEY CAN'T HOLD ONTO ME MUCH LONGER WITHOUT THE RISK OF FALLING THEMSELVES!

BETTER *ME* THAN MY WIFE AND CHILD!

IAGO!

DADDY!

NOT TODAY!
NOBODY DIES TODAY!

KNUCKLES IN

Covenant

MOMMA! LOOK! DADDY'S NOT FALLING!

THANK GOODNESS!

I DON'T PRETEND TO UNDERSTAND--

--BUT I BELIEVE THE CREDIT FOR MY CONTINUING EXISTENCE BELONGS TO BROTHER ATHAIR!

HE'S GOT THAT RIGHT!

WHAT I WANNA KNOW IS--

HOW DOES ATHAIR DO IT?

TAKE ME UP!

SOMEONE TAKE ME UP!

HEADS UP!

FWOOSH

AHHH!

I'M ON FIRE! I'M ON FIRE!

DON'T PANIC!

THERE! EVERYTHING'S COOL!

OH, MY!

I'M NOT EVEN SINGED!

UNLIKE YOU—

—WHO BORE THE FULL IMPACT OF MY CALAMITY!

FUNNY—

—I DON'T FEEL A THING!

LOOK! YOUR INJURIES! THEY'RE—

—THEY'RE DISAPPEARING!

BUT HOW—?

A QUESTION TO BE ANSWERED LATER!

FOR NOW, LET'S SEE TO EVERYONE ELSE'S SAFETY, SHALL WE?

"I WATCHED IN ABSOLUTE *AWE* AT THE WHOLE PROCEEDING. IT WAS AS IF THE HAND OF A HIGHER POWER HAD LIFTED EVERYONE OUT OF HARM'S WAY--

"--AND WHO'S TO SAY THAT IT *WASN'T*, IN THE FORM OF *ATHAIR* UTILIZING *POWERS* EVEN NOW I *SCARCELY COMPREHEND*.

"TO SAY NOTHING OF *KNUCKLES*, WHO ALSO DISPLAYED SIGNS OF HAVING BEEN BLESSED WITH SOME FORM OF POWER.

"HOW ELSE TO EXPLAIN HIS *MIRACULOUS* RECOVERY FROM THAT WHICH *OTHERS* WOULD *NOT* HAVE *SURVIVED*?"

AH, THERE YOU ARE, GENTLEMEN! DO COME IN!

LOOKING A BIT UNDER THE WEATHER, ARE WE?

THE RAIN JUST SLACKED OFF, BUT NO WORSE FOR WEAR!

CHARMY SAID YOU WANTED TO SEE US!

I'VE RECEIVED WORD THAT KNUCKLES HAS LEFT THE FLOATING ISLAND ON A MISSION OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.

HE HAS?

LIKE WHERE DID HE SPLIT TO?

THAT DOES NOT CONCERN YOU!

WHAT DOES IS THAT YOU'VE BEEN DEPUTIZED TO ASSUME HIS DUTIES UNTIL HIS RETURN.

THERE'S MORE TO THIS THAN YOU'RE TELLING US, I'LL BET!

I'M TELLING YOU ALL I'M AUTHORIZED TO.

OH, ONE MORE THING--

--DESPITE MY RECOMMENDATION OTHERWISE--

--MEET YOUR NEW PARTNER!

"WHO? HER?!!"

ARE WE THROUGH THE DAY OF FURY, BROTHER ATHAIR?

IT'S HARDLY BEGUN, YANAR! ALREADY STORM CLOUDS ARE FORMING ON THE HORIZON!

THIS IS BUT A MERE PROLOGUE!

WE SHOULD SAVOR THE MOMENT OF PEACE WHILE WE CAN.

AH, KNUCKLES, MY BOY! WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US?

THAT'S AN INVITATION YOU MAY COME TO REGRET, GRANDFATHER!

DO I DETECT A NOTE OF HOSTILITY, BROTHER KNUCKLES?

IT'S ALRIGHT, YANAR! IF ANYTHING, I'D EXPECT YOU TO BE MORE SYMPATHETIC TO MY GREAT-GRANDSON!

YOU'RE BOTH WANDERERS IN A SEARCH FOR KNOWLEDGE!

I'VE ONLY ONE QUESTION FOR YOU, GRANDFATHER ATHAIR

JUST ONE?

JUST ONE!

WHY DID YOU ABANDON YOUR DUTIES AS A GUARDIAN?

A FAIR QUESTION, SON--

--AS WELL AS A PERCEPTIVE ONE!

I SEE YOU ARE LEARNING, KNUCKLES.

I SUSPECT MY YOUTH WAS VERY MUCH LIKE YOURS GROWING UP ON THE FLOATING ISLAND!

"MY FATHER HAD DIED WHEN I WAS BUT AN INFANT, WHILE MY MOTHER WAS THE GUARDIAN DURING THAT PERIOD.

"I'D ACCOMPANY MY MOTHER, JANELLE-LI, THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND AS SHE'D RESTORE ORDER TO WHATEVER MATTER NEEDING ATTENTION.

"LITTLE DID I DREAM SHE WAS PREPARING ME TO ASSUME HER MANTLE.

"IMAGINE MY SURPRISE--

"--WHEN I ACCOMPANIED HER TO THE EDGE OF THE FORBIDDEN ZONE--

"--AND WATCHED HER VANISH INTO A WALL OF FLAME."

HEY! DEJA VU!

DO ALL GUARDIANS EXPERIENCE THIS ROUTINE OR WHAT?

MOST HAVE, BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY!

AS I WAS SAYING--

"JANELLE-LI HAD NOW LEFT ME IN CHARGE, AND I HANDLED MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS WELL AS ANY GUARDIAN BEFORE OR SINCE!

"JUST LIKE YOU, I HAD MANY QUESTIONS--

"--BUT UNLIKE YOU, I HAD FAITH I WOULD FIND MY ANSWERS IN DUE TIME--

"--WHICH CAME IN THE FORM OF A TRIO OF COSMIC BEINGS KNOWN AS THE ANCIENT WALKERS.

Young Athalia, while the need for thou on the Floating Island be great--greater still is the need for you elsewhere!

"EVEN THOUGH I HAD BEEN TO ECHIDNAOPOLIS A FEW TIMES AS A BOY, IT STILL HAD NOT PREPARED ME FOR THE SIGHT THAT I FOUND--

MY OWN KIND!! LIVING ON THE MOBIAN SURFACE!!!

"UPON GETTING OVER MY *INITIAL* REACTION, I BEGAN TO NOTICE THAT THEY WERE *ASSEMBLING* IN A VERY *REVERENT* MANNER!

"I DIDN'T KNOW *WHY* AT THE TIME, BUT I FELT *COMPELLED* TO STEP *FORWARD*!

YOU ARE THE *OTHER*?

NO, I DON'T BELIEVE SO.

THEN YOU MUST BE THE *MITRE*!

THE *WHAT*?

OUR GUIDE—THE ONE *SHOWING* US THE WAY TO *JOURNEY'S END*.

AND WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO *FIND*?

THE FABLED LAND OF ALBION, FROM WHICH OUR KIND SPRANG FORTH.

HIMON--WHO HAD BEEN OUR MITRE--IS NOW AT REST. YOU HAVE BEEN SENT TO TAKE HIS PLACE.

SUCH AS IT EVER BEEN, SUCH WILL IT ALWAYS BE--

--UNTIL THE TRIBE AT LAST ATTAINS ITS HOMELAND.

"AT THAT MOMENT, I COULD RECOGNIZE MY CALLING, AND KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO NEXT

THERE WAS ONE SMALL PROBLEM: WHO WOULD ASSUME MY DUTIES AS GUARDIAN?

AN INTERESTING QUESTION, WOULDN'T YOU SAY, KNUCKLES?

PLEASE, GRANDFATHER! WHAT HAPPENED?

"THEY TOOK ME TO HAVEN!"

ATHAIR!

MOTHER!

WHAT IS THIS *PLACE*, MOTHER?

IS *THIS* WHERE YOU HAVE BEEN SINCE I LAST SAW YOU?

YES, ATHAIR, I WAS *SUMMONED* TO *HAVEN* FOR A *GREATER* PURPOSE WHEN I WAS READY!

"MERE *HOURS* AGO, I WAS A SON WHO WOULD'VE BEEN *DESPERATE* FOR ANY *EXPLANATION* IN REGARDS TO HIS *MOTHER'S* ACTIONS."

HAVING BEEN GIVEN THE GIFT OF *PERSPECTIVE*, I UNDERSTOOD, PROBABLY BETTER THAN EVEN *JANELLE-U* COULD'VE IMAGINED.

SHE LEFT HAVEN TO TAKE UP MY *DUTIES*, DESPITE MY *PROTESTS*.

SHE BELIEVED THE *ANCIENT WALKERS* HAD A *GREATER* NEED FOR ME *THAN* DID THE *BROTHERHOOD*!

I *STILL* DON'T GET IT WITH THIS PLACE *HAVEN*--OR THE *BROTHERHOOD*!

THE *BROTHERHOOD* IS WHAT GUARDIANS *ASPIRE* TO, *KNUCKLES*--

--AND *HAVEN* IS WHERE THEY GO!

MY PATH TOOK A *DIFFERENT* DIRECTION--

"— AS I WAS DESTINED TO BE A MITRE INSTEAD, LEADING THE TRIBE TO THE LOST CITY OF ALBION, FOLLOWING THE TRAIL LEFT BEHIND BY OUR FOREFATHERS!

"THE ROAD WAS LONG, FRAUGHT WITH MUCH PERIL AND UNCERTAINTY...

"SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, I SUCCUMBED TO THE SOULTOUCH WHEN I MET THE GENTLE CRYSTAL-LA, WHO SOON BECAME MY WIFE...

"A SEASON PASSED BEFORE SHE BORE ME A SON, SABRE, JUST AS THE TRIBE HAD SETTLED IN A VALLEY FULL OF PROMISE AND HOPE —

"—UNTIL THE DROUGHT CAME, FORCING US TO MOVE ONCE AGAIN.

"ONE DAY SEVERAL YEARS LATER, THE ANCIENT WALKERS RETURNED WITH A MESSAGE THAT JANELLE-LI WASN'T LONG FOR THIS WORLD..."

FATHER, YOU MUST GO!

MY PLACE IS HERE, SABRE! THE PEOPLE NEED ME!

GRANDMOTHER NEEDS YOU MORE!

I'M SORRY, SABRE.

"SABRE WENT WITH THE ANCIENT WALKERS, AND CONTINUED OUR FAMILY'S PROUD TRADITION UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF ARCHIMEDES."

ARCHIMEDES? HE WAS AROUND BACK THEN?

OH, YES! FIRE-ANTS LIVE ALMOST AS LONG AS GUARDIANS!

AS FOR SABRE, HE STILL REFUSES TO SPEAK WITH ME!

COULDN'T ANOTHER MITRE HAVE TAKEN YOUR PLACE?

ACCORDING TO THE TOMES, I WAS PRE-ORDAINED THE LAST MITRE, AS IT WAS WRITTEN THE TRIBE WOULD AT LAST REACH ALBION DURING THE CURRENT GENERATION

THESE WERE A PEOPLE WHO ENDURED ALL SORTS OF HARDSHIPS AND DIFFICULTIES FOR OVER 600 YEARS. HOW COULD I ABANDON THEM AT THIS POINT?

THE TOMES

I THOUGHT I COULD PROTECT THE TRIBE FROM ANYTHING! LITTLE DID I REALIZE THE HORROR ABOUT TO BE UNLEASHED!

"ONE DAY THEY CAME--A HORDE OF MARAUDING SWATBOTS--WITH THE INTENT OF CAPTURING AND ENSLAVING OUR PEOPLE!

"THE TRIBE FOUGHT BACK VALIANTLY--

"--BUT THE PRICE BEING PAID WAS TOO DEAR, AND SO I ORDERED THE TRIBE--WHAT WAS LEFT OF IT-- TO RETREAT!

"AMONG THOSE WE LOST WAS MY OWN BELOVED CRYSTAL-LA.. "

"SINCE THEN, I'VE ACTED AS AN *AGENT* FOR THE *ANCIENT WALKERS* ON BEHALF OF THE GREATER *GOOD*, WHILE TENDING TO THE NEEDS OF THE *TRIBE*."

I'VE SO MANY *QUESTIONS*-- AND YET--I'M SO *TIRED*...

THEY CAN *WAIT* UNTIL THE *MORNING*, KNUCKLES!

I GUESS I'LL CALL IT A *NIGHT* THEN!

SLEEP WELL, KNUCKLES!

I *HATED* TO DO THAT, BUT I *COULD SEE* THE BOY WAS *OVERWHELMED* BY IT ALL!

DO YOU THINK HE WAS *READY*?

ARE *ANY* OF US *EVER* READY FOR WHAT *AWAITS* US?

THIS WILL BE THE *LAST* TIME WE *SPEAK*, VANAR, FOR ONCE *AGAIN* I HAVE A *HIGHER* PATH TO FOLLOW!

IF I HAVE BUT ONE *REGRET*--

"—IT'S THAT I WON'T BE WITH YOU AT *JOURNEY'S END!*"

YAWWN!

'MORNING, YANAR! WHERE'S ATHAIR?

HE'S GONE.

GONE? WHADDYA MEAN, "GONE"?

HE *WENT* WITH THE ANCIENT WALKERS *AFTER* EVERYONE WENT TO SLEEP!

THIS IS DEFINITELY *NOT* COOL!

HE QUITS BEING A GUARDIAN, AND NOW HE GIVES UP BEING A *MITRE*!

OF ALL THE--

IT IS *NOT* FOR US TO *JUDGE* HIM, KNUCKLES!

IT'S *EASY* FOR YOU TO *SAY*! SO WHAT *NOW*?

NOW-- YOU WILL *LEAD* US!

ME? BUT—I DON'T EVEN KNOW THE *WAY*!

"ATHAIR SAID TO HEAD TOWARD THE RISING SUN, AND THAT YOU COULD FIGURE OUT THE REST."

THE KINGDOM OF MERCIA, EH? HOPE THE NATIVES ARE FRIENDLY!

EXCUSE ME--

WELCOME TO THE KINGDOM OF MERCIA

HAVE YOU SEEN MY BROTHERS? I CAN'T FIND THEM ANYWHERE!

WHO?

ZAX AND RAYNOR HAVE WANDERED OFF--

THEY CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN TOO FAR!

I'LL LOOK FOR THEM!

HOLD IT!!! I'M GOING, TOO!

YOU'LL BE SAFER HERE!

SAFER?

WHUMP!

I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF, THANK YOU!
POINT MADE, UH... !
MARI-AN!
YOU'RE NOT RELATED TO ANYONE NAMED JULIE-SU, BY ANY CHANCE?
WHO?
NEVER MIND.
CAMP HERE UNTIL WE RETURN, YANAR!
VERY WELL, KNUCKLES!
MOMENTS LATER...
KRRRUNCH!
KRRRUNCH!
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
WHATEVER COULD IT BE, YANAR?
I'M NOT SURE— BUT I BETTER CHECK IT OUT!
ATTENTION-NUMBER-SEVEN! INTRUDERS-ARE LOCATED!
AND-THE-HIGHSHERIFF-NEEDS-MORE-LABORERS!
YOU-WILL-SURRENDER—

-- OR-ELSE-HIS-LIFE-IS-FORFEIT.

HEY!

"-- CAN'T WE *TALK* THIS OVER? "

NO SIGN OF 'EM!

YOU SURE THEY AREN'T *GOOFING* ON YOU?

THEY *NEVER* DID *BEFORE*!

SINCE THIS ISN'T DOING THE TRICK, LET'S *SPLIT* UP AND SEE IF THAT WORKS!

THAT SHOULD ALLOW US TO COVER MORE GROUND!

WE'LL MEET BACK *HERE* IN AN HOUR.

"GOTCHA!"

WELCOME-TO-THE-ROCK!

YOUR-NEW-AND-LAST-HOME!

IT'S AN *ECHIDNA*--

--BUT NOT *RAD RED*!

THEN WHO--?

OOF!

OOOOOOH! PFFT!

I SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN BED!

ATHAIR DIDN'T MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT THIS PLACE!

ATHAIR? YOU KNOW ATHAIR?!

I'M TAILS! PLEASED TO MEET YOU!

SONIC'S THE NAME--

"--AND ESCAPING'S MY GAME!"

I THINK I TOOK A WRONG TURN SOMEWHERE!

PAY ATTENTION, GANG, 'CAUSE THE ACTION IN THE PAGES OF SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #58, IN NEXT MONTH'S KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA! (YOU BETTER CHECK, AS WE MAY EVEN HAVE A TITLE CHANGE! HOW'S TALES FROM THE FLOATING ISLAND GRAB YOU?) CONTINUES & CONCLUDES

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IN TWO WEEKS: LEARN HOW SONIC AND TAILS ENDED UP IN THE DUNGEONS OF THE HIGH SHERIFF'S CASTLE?

FIND OUT WHO THE MYSTERIOUS HEDGEHOG AIMING AT KNUCKLES IS? ALL THIS IN A STORY THAT COULD ONLY BE CALLED "FRIENDLY ROGUES AND FOUL VILLAINS," THIS STORYLINE PICKS UP FROM THE END OF THIS ISSUE AND CONTINUES INTO KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #12. **WRITTEN BY KEN PENDERS. ART BY ART MAWHINNEY AND KEN PENDERS. COVER BY SPAZ, HARVO AND HEROIC AGE! SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #58 ON SALE LATE FEBRUARY 1998!**

NEXT MONTH: AT LAST! THE EPIC CONCLUSION TO THE **"FORGOTTEN TRIBE"** STORYLINE! IT PICKS UP FROM THE PAGES OF SONIC THE HEDGEHOG#58 AND ENDS WITH SOME STARTLING REVELATIONS ABOUT THE ECHIDNA RACE. THIS STORY IS BROUGHT TO YOU FROM OUR REGULAR KNUCKLES TEAM OF **KEN PENDERS, MANNY GALAN AND ANDREW PEPOY. COVER BY SPAZ, PENDERS AND HEROIC AGE! KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #12 ON SALE MARCH 1998!**

CATCH YOU ON THE FLIP SIDE!

Send your letters to:

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e-mail address: **KnuxNotes@aol.com**
website: **www.archiecomics.com**

NOTE: DUE TO AN OVERWHELMING AMOUNT OF EMAIL, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO REPLY PERSONALLY TO EACH AND EVERY MESSAGE. HOWEVER, YOUR OPINIONS ARE IMPORTANT TO US AND EACH MESSAGE WILL BE READ.

THANKS FOR SUPERSTARDOM!

DEAR KNUCKLES,
I LOVE YOUR NEW BOOK! I HAVE A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS FOR YOU: 1) I MISSED KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #4. I CANNOT GET IT IN STORES AND I'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE. IS THERE ANYWAY I CAN GET IT? 2) HOW DO YOU SUBSCRIBE TO YOUR COMIC BOOK? 3) IS JULIE-SU A CYBORG?

LISA WHEELER (AGE 16)
GOBLES, MI

I'M GLAD YOU ASKED THAT, LISA. TAKE A LOOK AT THE LAST PAGE OF THIS BOOK FOR THE ANSWER TO YOUR LAST TWO QUESTIONS. FOR YOUR THIRD QUESTION, YOUR ANSWER IS MOSTLY CORRECT. JULIE-SU ISN'T SO MUCH A CYBORG ECHIDNA AS SHE IS AN ECHIDNA WITH CYBERNETIC ATTACHMENTS. HOWEVER, THERE ARE OTHER DARK LEGIONAIRES THAT DEFINITELY QUALIFY. I THINK THE MORE "HARDWARE" ONE HAS ON THEIR BODY, THE MORE ONE CAN BE CLASSIFIED AS A CYBORG.

DEAR KNUCKEY,
I THINK YOU ARE THE COOLEST! I'M SORRY TO SAY THAT KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #5 IS THE ONLY KNUCKLES COMIC BOOK I EVER READ, BUT I EAGERLY AWAIT ISSUE #6. I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS FOR YOU: 1) HOW OLD ARE YOU? 2) HOW OLD IS JULIE-SU? 3) IS JULIE-SU GOING TO BE (-GULP- NOW FOR THE BIGGIE!) YOUR NEMESIS, FRIEND OR (-GULP- AGAIN!) GIRLFRIEND? I HOPE I WASN'T GETTING TOO PERSONAL WITH THAT LAST QUESTION? WELL, UNTIL NEXT TIME!
CONNOR JOSET
HALIFAX, NS
CANADA

I AM FIFTEEN YEARS OLD. I THINK JULIE-SU IS ABOUT MY AGE BUT I NEVER THOUGHT TO ASK. CONNOR, AS FAR AS JULIE-SU'S RELATIONSHIP TO ME IS CONCERNED, I CAN ONLY SAY "TIME WILL TELL!"

DEAR KNUCKLES,
I'VE JUST BOUGHT ISSUE #5 OF YOUR SERIES AND I THINK YOUR COMICS ARE THE COOLEST!!! WHEN I WAS SEVEN YEARS OLD, I KNEW THERE WERE SONIC COMICS AROUND BUT I NEVER FOUND ANY UNTIL YOU CAME ALONG. 1) WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR GLOVES? 2) WILL YOU EVER BE BEST FRIENDS WITH SONIC? 3) WHO IS THE MOST DANGEROUS VILLAIN YOU'VE FOUGHT?

PHILLIP "PHIL MASTER" HUDD (AGE 9)
LOUISVILLE, KY

NO, PHILLIP, YOU ARE THE COOLEST. AND SO IS EVERYONE THAT READS MY BOOK! 1) MY DAD GAVE THEM TO ME. 2) ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE IN LIFE. 3) DEFINITELY ENERJAK. BUT I HAVE TO SAY, MAMMOTH MOGUL BECAME JUST AS DANGEROUS (IF NOT MORE) WHEN HE STOLE ENERJAK'S POWER.

YO KNUX,
I JUST GOT THE FIFTH ISSUE IN YOUR NEW SERIES. I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS, OF COURSE: 1) WHAT DO THE CHAOTIX DO WHILE YOU'RE IN ECHIDNAOPOLIS? 2) IS JULIE-SU HALF ROBOT? IF NOT, THEN WHAT IS THAT STUFF IN HER DREADLOCKS AND ON HER ARMS? SEE YA ON THE FLOATING ISLAND!

BILLY "STARBURNER" MALCOM
BILLYMALCOM@AOL.COM

1) THE CHAOTIX WERE LOOKING AFTER THE REST OF THE FLOATING ISLAND WHILE I WAS AT ECHIDNAOPOLIS. SOMETIMES THEY GO BACK HOME SINCE THEIR FAMILIES STILL LIVE ON THE FLOATING ISLAND. 2) YES AND NO. JULIE-SU CAME FROM THE DARK LEGION OF ECHIDNAS WHO USE CYBERNETIC IMPLANTS FOR DIFFERENT REASONS. SOME TO ENHANCE VISION OR HEARING. OTHERS TO REPLACE DAMAGED BODY PARTS RATHER THAN HEAL THEM. IT'S JUST THEIR WAY. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT LIKE WHEN BUNNIE WAS HALF-ROBOTICIZED SINCE HER LEGS WEREN'T BUILT AND PUT ON BUT WERE INSTEAD TRANSFORMED FROM FLESH AND BLOOD.

DEAR KNUCKLES,
I WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR NEW SERIES. IT GIVES YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO SOLO AND LEARN ALL YOU CAN ABOUT YOUR HERITAGE AND BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO WATCH OVER THE FLOATING ISLAND FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE. WHEREAS WITH SONIC, HE JUST RUNS AROUND AT FULL SPEED, NOT CARING WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS (LIKE A TREE IF HE'S NOT LOOKING... HEE, HEE). ANY IDEA AS TO HOW MIGHTY KNOWS SONIC? HAVE ANY OF THE GUARDIANS BEEN FEMALE?

SCOTT MORAN
(A.K.A.SOKERBOXER@AOL.COM)

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT. IT SEEMS I HAVE SOMETHING NEW TO LEARN EVERY TIME I TURN AROUND. DON'T BE TOO HARD ON SONIC. HE HAS HIS WAY OF DEALING WITH STRESS AND I HAVE MINE. I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY MET BUT I'M SURE WE'LL FIND OUT ONE DAY WHEN MIGHTY IS READY TO TALK. AS FAR AS FEMALE GUARDIANS GO, I KNOW NOW THAT ATHAIR'S MOTHER WAS A GUARDIAN.

SO UNTIL NEXT MONTH, STAY COOL!

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